



DOCKET NO: M0274.70033 US00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Anthony Robert Wicks  
Serial No: 10/656,614  
Confirmation No.: 7995  
Filed: September 5, 2003  
For: DATA MANAGEMENT TOOL  
Examiner: --  
Art Unit: 3629

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven J. Henry  
Reg. No. 27,900

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Transmitted herewith are the following documents:

Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 and references  
 Priority document  
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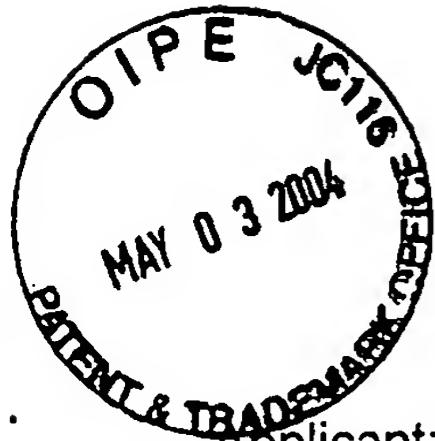
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Respectfully submitted,

  
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Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.  
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(617)720-3500

Docket No.: M0274.70033 US00  
Date: April 18, 2004

xndd



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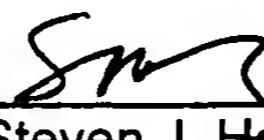
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office  
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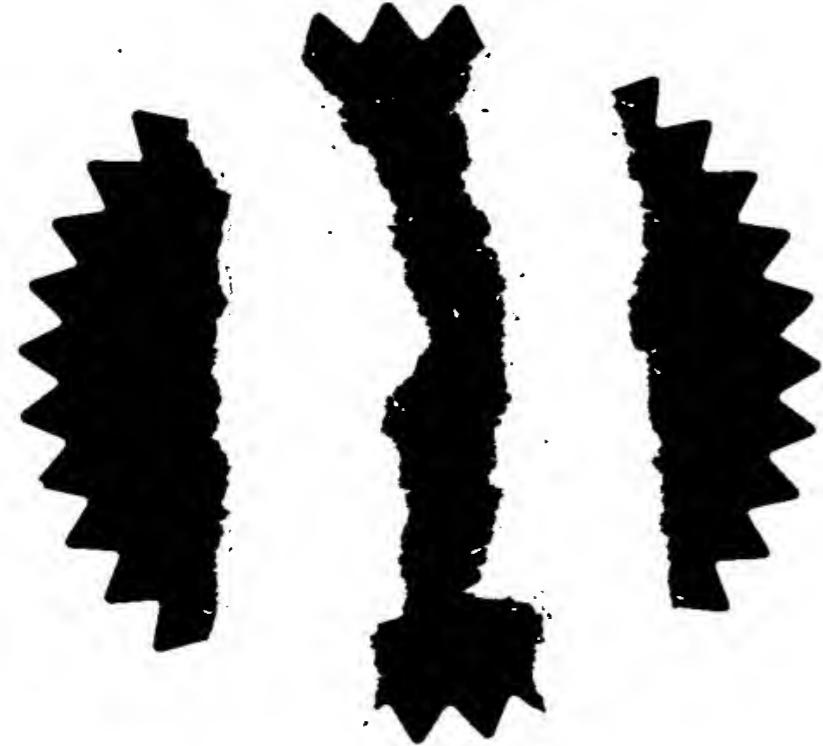
I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

I also certify that the attached copy of the request for grant of a Patent (Form 1/77) bears an amendment, effected by this office, following a request by the applicant and agreed to by the Comptroller-General.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

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Dated 12 September 2003

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103EP02 E74 707-4 D01667  
P01/7700 009-0220861.9

1/77

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1. Your reference

WICKS/101

IK/CEC/255806B

2. Patents Act 1977  
(Rule 16)  
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- 7 SEP 2002

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of  
each applicant (underline all surnames)Anthony Robert WICKS  
15 Van Gogh Court  
Amsterdam Road  
London E14 3UY

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

8466891001

4. Title of the invention

PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

Ephry Eder

Address for service in the United Kingdom  
to which all correspondence should be sent  
(including the postcode)E. EDER & CO  
39 Cranbrook Road  
Ilford  
Essex IG1 4PAMathys + Squire  
100 Gray's Inn Road  
London  
WC1X 8AL

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

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S171  
S19/036. If you are declaring priority from one or more  
earlier patent applications, give the country  
and the date of filing of the or of each of these  
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Country

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Number of earlier application

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to grant a patent required in support of  
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a) any applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or  
b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or  
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Description  
Claim(s)  
Abstract  
Drawing(s)

4

2

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- Priority documents:
- Translation of priority documents:
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- Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77):
- Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77):
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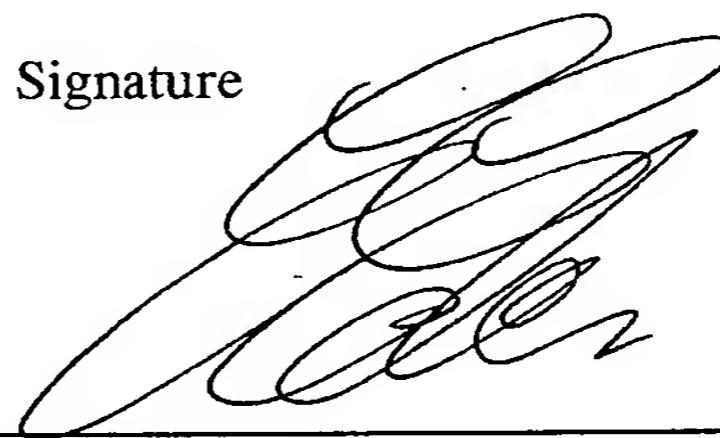
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1 (Letter)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application

Signature



Date

5 September 2002

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Ephry Eder

020-8478 7887

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~~DUPLICATE~~

- 1 -

## PRESENTATION OF INFORMATION

5

### DESCRIPTION

#### Technical Field

This invention relates to the presentation of information. It is concerned with methods of presenting information correlating a list of items and a list of their attributes. It is also concerned with display means for displaying such information. The invention has application when a PC user needs to select an item having a particular attribute (or the lack of such attribute) from a list. Generally, lists are presented to the user in a box which can be scrolled up and down, so that the user can select the one he wants. The larger the list, the more difficult and time-consuming is the job of selecting.

#### Background

There are various ways by which current computer software can reduce the size of lists and thus simplify the task of selection. Four of these known methods are: option buttons, search boxes, organisation into a hierarchy, or a spreadsheet format. Each of these has disadvantages. Option buttons are limited to whatever attributes are predefined by the software. Search boxes normally only accept words which have to exist in the text of items. Hierarchical methods don't work very well on lists where list items have attributes which don't fall into a hierarchical structure (for example the various attributes of fonts). Spreadsheets can only filter lists according to the value of data fields within each item. It is not possible to create an attribute which is independent from the data in the list, and allocate the attribute to items in the list for use in filtering.

30

Disclosure of the Invention

According to the invention a method of presenting information correlating a list of items and a list of their attributes comprises:

5 a) displaying the list of items as a column of rows, each row displaying the name of an item in the list of items,

b) displaying to the side of the column a set of vertical strips extending the length of the column, each strip being associated with a different attribute of the list of attributes, and

10 c) displaying markers in the strips at selected positions where the strips cross rows, said positions being selected in accordance with whether the item named in the crossed row has (or alternatively has not) the attribute associated with that strip.

Each strip of the set of strips may be displayed in a distinctive colour, for example the colours of the rainbow.

15 In carrying out the invention the strips may extend beyond the column of rows of items and have horizontal extensions themselves forming a column of rows, each row displaying the name of an attribute in the list of attributes.

20 In preferred embodiments of the invention said set of strips extends along one side of the column of rows displaying the names of the list of items and a second set of strips each strip of which is associated with a different attribute of a further list of attributes extends along the other side of the said column of rows. The strips of said second set of strips extend beyond the column of rows of items and have horizontal extensions themselves forming a second column of rows, each row displaying the name of an attribute in the further list of attributes.

25 A plurality of alternative sets of strips may be made available and selection means is then displayed for selecting any one set of said alternative sets for display.

The invention also comprises display means for carrying out the method described above.

Brief Description of the Drawings

5 By way of example one embodiment of this invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawings of which:

Fig. 1 shows the top half of a display embodying the invention and showing two sets of strips for listing attributes and provision for a column of rows for listing items,

Fig. 2 shows the top left-hand corner of a display embodying the invention and displaying a typical marker,

10 Fig. 3 shows the top right-hand corner of a display embodying the invention, and

Fig. 4 shows a display similar to that of Fig. 1 but adapted to provide for more than two sets of strips.

15 Detailed Description of Example(s) of the Invention

Fig. 1 shows the five main areas of a display embodying the invention, the respective areas being referenced 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Areas 1, 2, 3 and 4 are each made up of seven strips in the colours of the rainbow. Areas 1 and 2 comprise two sets of seven strips arranged horizontally across the top of the display. Area 1 on the left is used to display those attributes pre-allocated by a computer program. Area 2 on the right is used to display any attributes created by the user. The third and fourth sets of colour strips 3 and 4 are arranged beneath the horizontal sets to form a rectangular approximation to a rainbow. These sets of vertical strips 3 and 4 are used to display markers against each item in a list of items where an attribute is present, as well as to accept mouse clicks from the user to toggle attributes on and off. The fifth area 5 is placed inside the approximate rainbow formed by areas 1 to 4. Area 5 contains a column of rows in which the names of a list of items are placed. In the example considered the items comprise fonts and their names are displayed row by row.

The names 10 of the attributes of fonts are displayed on the horizontal colour strips in the top of the display, e.g. in the right part of display area 1 and/or in the left part of display area 2 (Fig. 1). Alongside each attribute name is an option box 11 inside which the user can click to filter the list of items having that attribute, either negatively or positively. For example a left mouse click would select only font names possessing the attribute, and a right mouse click would select only font names not possessing the attribute. Option box 11 displays any current selection status 14, for example a tick for positive selection or a cross for negative selection. In order to toggle an attribute on or off the user clicks in the rectangle 13 formed by the intersection of the appropriate vertical colour strip and the horizontal item display.

To create a new attribute, a user clicks inside a horizontal colour strip 20 shown in Fig. 3 which is currently empty. The program then prompts the user for the attribute name, and displays it alongside an option box. Such an option box would be similar to the option boxes 11 shown in Fig. 2.

If more than seven attributes are required to be shown on each side of the screen, further sets of seven attributes can be set up which are displayed on request by the user, for example clicking on numbered navigation buttons 30. The rainbow strips relating to each set can be overlaid with a large number 31 for identification.

Other modifications and embodiments of the invention, which will be readily apparent to those skilled in this art, are to be deemed within the ambit and scope of the invention, and the particular embodiment(s) hereinbefore described may be varied in construction and detail, e.g. interchanging (where appropriate or desired) different features of each, without departing from the scope of the patent monopoly hereby sought.

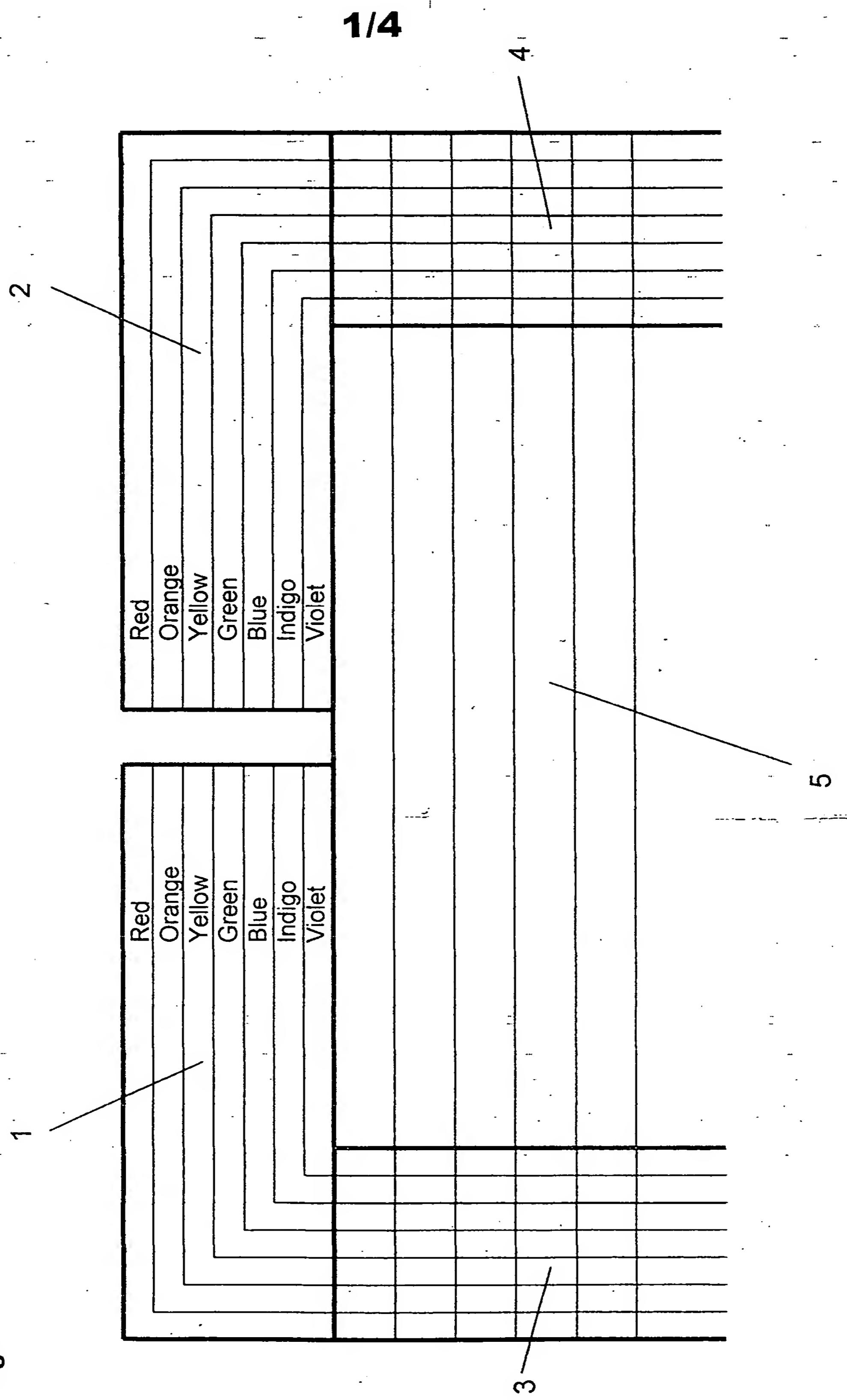
CLAIMS

1. A method of presenting information correlating a list of items and a list of their attributes comprising:
  - 5 a) displaying the list of items as a column of rows, each row displaying the name of an item in the list of items,
  - b) displaying to the side of the column a set of vertical strips extending the length of the column, each strip being associated with a different attribute of the list of attributes, and
  - 10 c) displaying markers in the strips at selected positions where the strips cross rows, said positions being selected in accordance with whether the item named in the crossed row has (or alternatively has not) the attribute associated with that strip.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1 in which each strip of the set of strips is  
15 displayed in a distinctive colour.
3. The method as claimed in either one of the preceding claims in which the strips extend beyond the column of rows of items and have horizontal extensions themselves forming a column of rows, each row displaying the name of an attribute  
20 in the list of attributes.
4. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which said set of strips extends along one side of the column of rows displaying the names of the list of items and a second set of strips each strip of which is associated with a different attribute of a further list of attributes extends along the other side of the said  
25 column of rows.
5. The method as claimed in claim 3 and claim 4 in which the strips of said second set of strips extend beyond the column of rows of items and have horizontal

extensions themselves forming a second column of rows, each row displaying the name of an attribute in the further list of attributes.

6. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims in which a plurality of alternative sets of strips are made available and selection means is displayed for selecting any one set of said alternative sets for display.
5. 7. Display means for carrying out the method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims.

Fig 1



2/4

11

14

Swiss

Roman

Modern

## Script

## Decorative

Pictorial

## Fixed Pitch

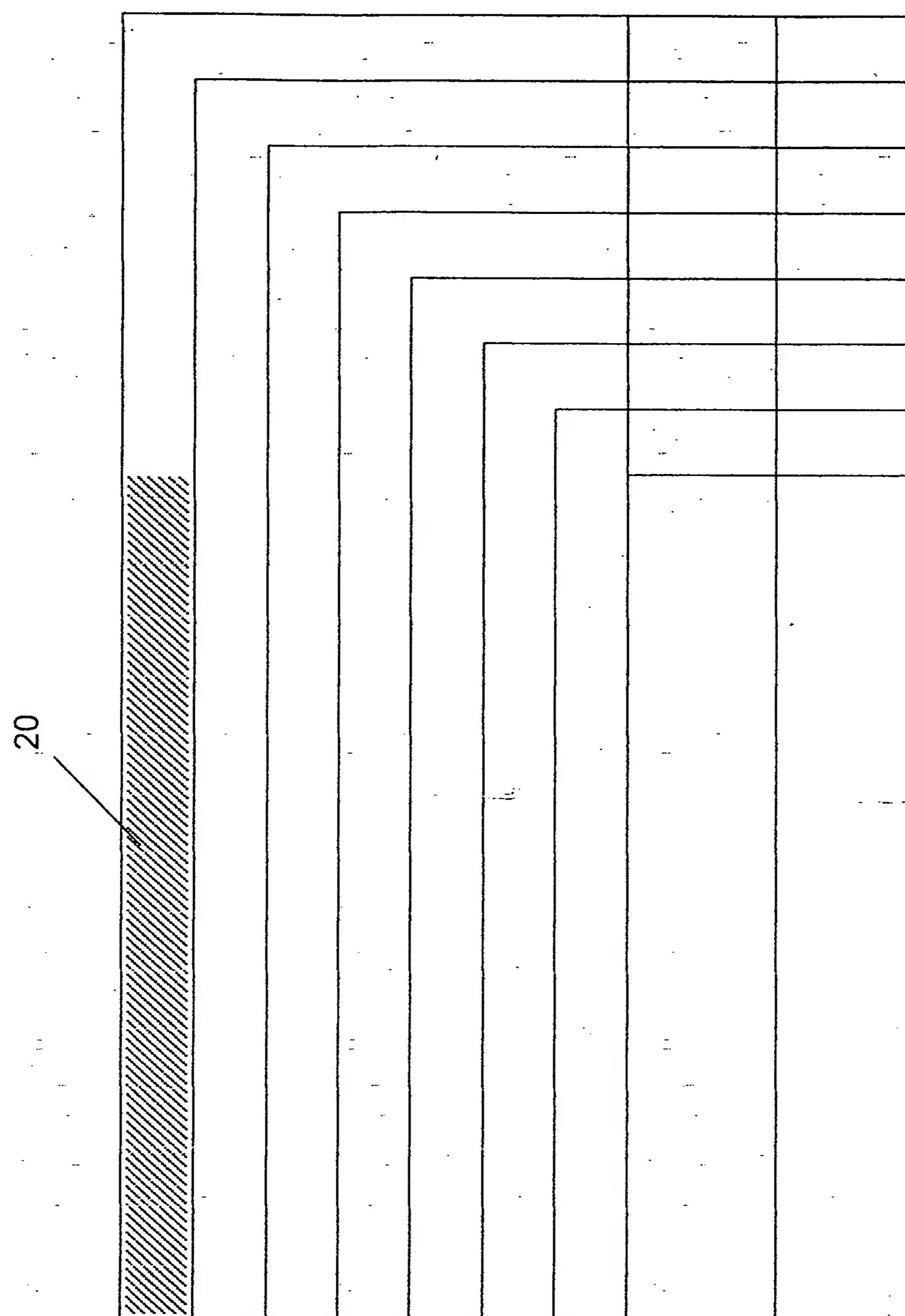
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Fig 2

**3/4**



**Fig 3**

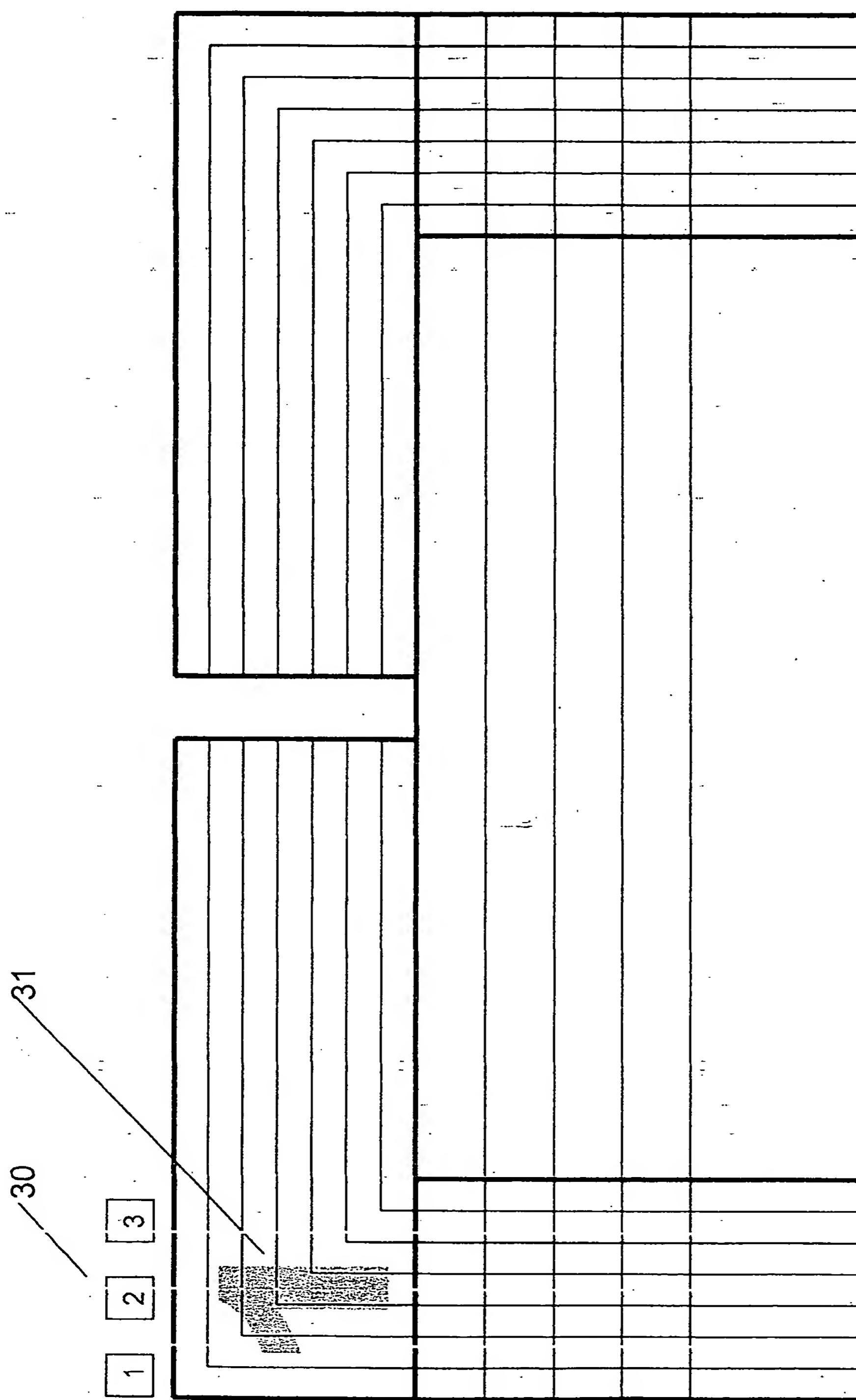


Fig 4